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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/674,476	10/01/2003	Takatoshi Hirota	1071.1044DC	4672

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EXAMINER

PATEL, ASHOK

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2879

DATE MAILED: 03/25/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/674,476

Applicant(s)

HIROTA ET AL.

Examiner

Ashok Patel

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 6-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 6-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 08/867846.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>1003</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

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1. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

2. Claims 6-16 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1, and 2-11 of U.S. Patent No. 6,630,789. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because U.S. Patent 6,630,789 recites applicant's claimed flat display device including: a pair of substrates, a material (a filter), a protection plate, a casing, the pair of substrates defining a gas discharge space, a gas mixture within the gas discharge including at least Xenon, a plurality of display electrodes, a plurality of address electrodes, fluorescent layers etc. as recited in instant claims 6-16.

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Instant claims:Claims of U.S. Pat. 6,630,789

6-16

1 and 2-11

Applicant's instant claims 6-16 recite a flat display device including: a pair of substrates, a material, a protection plate, a casing, the pair of substrates defining a gas discharge space, a gas mixture within the gas discharge including at least Xenon, a plurality of display electrodes, a plurality of address electrodes, fluorescent layers etc. These limitations are recited in claims 1, and 2-11 of U.S. Patent 6,630,789.

3. Claims 6-16 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-7, 11-13, 20 and 26-33 of U.S. Patent No. 6,297,582. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because U.S. Patent 6,297,582 recites applicant's claimed flat display device including: a pair of substrates, a material (means for absorbing or reflecting near rays), a protection plate, a casing, the pair of substrates defining a gas discharge space, a gas mixture within the gas discharge including at least Xenon, a plurality of display electrodes, a plurality of address electrodes, fluorescent layers etc. as recited in instant claims 6-16.

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Instant claims:

Claims of U.S. Pat. 6,297,582

6-16

1-7, 11-13, 20 and 26-33

Applicant's instant claims 6-16 recite a flat display device including: a pair of substrates, a material, a protection plate, a casing, the pair of substrates defining a gas discharge space, a gas mixture within the gas discharge including at least Xenon, a plurality of display electrodes, a plurality of address electrodes, fluorescent layers etc. These limitations are recited in claims 1-7, 11-13, 20 and 26-33 of U.S. Patent 6,297,582.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ashok Patel whose telephone number is 571-272-2456. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nimesh Patel can be reached on 571-272-2457. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-4900.



Ashok Patel
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2879